<u>What is claimed is</u>:

1   1. An apparatus comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a multipath device driver configured to execute on the processor and to manage a

4   plurality of physical connections to a peripheral device, the multipath device driver

5   providing a logical connection interface configured to provide client access to the

6   peripheral device over at least one of the plurality of physical connections.

1   2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein multipath device driver includes a device driver for

2   each of the plurality of physical connections, and coupled to the multipath device driver.

1   3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver is configured to manage

2   a list including the plurality of physical connections.

1   4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the multipath device driver is further configured to

2   manage a second list including information pertaining to active connections of the

3   plurality of physical connections.

1   5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the second list includes information pertaining to a

2   status of each of the plurality of connections.

1   6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates determining an

2   alternative connection in response to a failed connection.

1   7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the multipath device driver determines the

2   alternative connection by accessing a list of alternative connections.

1   8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates deleting

2   connection data from the peripheral device.

1   9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates deleting the

2   connection data by communicating with the peripheral device over another of the

3   plurality of connections.

1   10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates writing

2   connection data to the peripheral device.

1   11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates associating a

2   first device driver with a second device driver.

1   12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates searching a

2   list for an identifier indicative of the peripheral device to determine a primary connection.

1   13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates placing a lock

2   on a device driver to prevent another device driver from searching a list.

1   14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates designating a

2   connection as a primary connection.

1   15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver is created by a primary

2   device driver.

1   16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the primary device driver creates the multipath

2   device driver in response to detecting a new connection associated with the peripheral

3   device.

1 17. An apparatus comprising:

2 a processor; and

3 a device driver executing on the processor and configured to manage a plurality of

4 physical connections to a peripheral device, the device driver providing a logical

5 connection interface configured to create a list including data associated with at least one

6 active connection of a plurality of connections connecting a computer to the peripheral

7 device, and to use the list to automatically route communications from the computer to

8 the peripheral device.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the device driver is configured to use the list to

2 route the communications to a second connection on the list in the event that a first

3 connection fails.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the device driver is configured to remove the data

2 associated with the at least one active connection from the list in response to the at least

3 one active connection failing.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the device driver is configured to create a second

2 list including information pertaining to all of the plurality of connections.

1 21. An apparatus comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a multipath device driver executing on the processor and configured to manage a

4 plurality of physical connections to a peripheral device, the multipath device driver

5 providing a logical connection interface configured to receive input associated with

6 removing from memory of the peripheral device information pertaining to an undesired

7 connection of the plurality of connections connecting a computer to the peripheral device,

8 and to remove the information from the peripheral device.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the multipath device driver is further configured

2 to determine an alternative connection in communication with the peripheral device.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the multipath device driver is further configured

2 to remove the information from the peripheral device using the alternative connection in

3 communication with the peripheral device.

1 24. A method for managing a plurality of physical connections from a computer to a

2 peripheral device, the method comprising:

3   creating a multipath device driver comprising a logical connection to a peripheral

4 device coupled to a computer over a plurality of physical connections; and

5   accessing the peripheral device using the multipath device driver.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising adding a new device driver associated

2 with the multipath device driver in response to detecting a new connection between the

3 peripheral device and the computer.

1 26. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the peripheral device using the multipath

2 device driver further includes accessing a memory.

1 27. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the peripheral device using the multipath

2 device driver further includes determining an alternative connection to the peripheral

3 device in response to detecting a failed connection.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, determining an alternative connection to the peripheral

2 device in response to detecting a failed connection further includes accessing a list of

3 active connections.

1 29. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the peripheral device over the multipath

2 device driver further includes deleting connection data from the peripheral device.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein deleting connection data from the peripheral device

2 further includes communicating with the peripheral device over another of the plurality of

3 connections.

1 31. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the peripheral device over the multipath

2 device driver further includes writing connection data to the peripheral device.

1 32. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2 includes associating a new device driver with a primary device driver, wherein the

3 primary device driver is associated with the multipath device driver.

1 33. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2 includes updating a list including active connections to the peripheral device.

1 34. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2 includes updating a list including status information pertaining to the plurality of

3 connections.

1 35. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2 includes searching a list for an identifier associated with the peripheral device.

1 36. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2 includes placing a lock on an object to prevent the object from searching a list.

1 37. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2 includes reading identification data from the peripheral device to confirm an identity of a

3 connection.

1 38. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2 includes creating a multipath driver in response to detecting a new connection associated

3 with a different peripheral device.

1   39. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2   includes creating the multipath device driver using a primary device driver.

1   40. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2   includes creating the multipath device driver in response to detecting a new connection

3   associated the peripheral device.

1   41. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein creating the multipath device driver further

2   includes using a new device driver associated with a new connection to prompt a primary

3   device driver to create the multipath device driver, wherein the multipath device is

4   associated with both the primary and new device drivers.

1 42. A method for managing a plurality of physical connections from a computer to a
2 peripheral device, the method comprising:
3   creating a list including data associated with at least one active connection of a
4 plurality of connections connecting a computer to a peripheral device; and
5   using the list to automatically route communications from the computer to the
6 peripheral device.

1 43. The method of claim 42, wherein using the list further includes using the list to route
2 the communications to a second connection in the event that the at least one active
3 connection fails.

1 44. The method of claim 42, further comprising removing the data associated with the at
2 least one active connection in response to the at least one active connection failing.

1 45. The method of claim 42, further comprising creating a list including information
2 pertaining to all of the plurality of connections.

1   46. A method for managing a plurality of physical connections from a computer to a

2   peripheral device, the method comprising:

3   receiving input associated with removing from memory of a peripheral device

4   information pertaining to an undesired connection of a plurality of connections

5   connecting a computer to the peripheral device; and

6   removing the information from the peripheral device.

1   47. The method of claim 46, wherein removing the information further includes

2   determining an alternative connection in communication with the peripheral device.

1   48. The method of claim 47, wherein removing the information further includes using the

2   alternative connection in communication with the peripheral device to remove the

3   information from the peripheral device.

1   49. A program product, comprising:

2   program code including a device driver configured to manage a plurality of

3   physical connections to a peripheral device, the device driver providing a logical

4   connection interface configured to provide client access to the peripheral device over at

5   least one of the plurality of physical connections; and

6   a signal bearing medium bearing the program code.

1   50. The program product of claim 49, wherein the signal bearing medium includes at

2   least one of a recordable medium and a transmission-type medium.